

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Highway Administration****Environmental Impact Statement:
Ketchikan, Alaska**

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Notice of intent.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is issuing this notice to advise the public that an environmental impact statement will be prepared for a proposed bridge project in Ketchikan, Alaska.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: James A. Bryson, Realty/Environmental Officer, Federal Highway Administration, Alaska Division, 709 West 9th Street, P.O. Box 21648, Juneau, Alaska 99802-1648, Telephone: (907) 586-7430 or Al Steininger, Engineering Manager, State of Alaska, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Statewide Engineering and Design Services Division, Southeast Region, 6860 Glacier Highway, Juneau, Alaska 99801-7999, Telephone (907) 465-4411, EMAIL: Al_Steininger@dot.state.ak.us.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FHWA in cooperation with the State of Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT&PF) will prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) on a proposal to construct a bridge or bridges between Gravina Island and Revillagigedo Island in Ketchikan, Alaska. This is a high priority project authorized by the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21).

The proposed action would improve access to the Ketchikan International Airport and developable lands on Gravina Island. Alternatives under consideration include taking no action; various bridge alternatives, and an underwater tunnel. Several crossing alignments are under consideration.

Letters describing the proposed action and soliciting comments will be sent to appropriate Federal, State, and local agencies and to private organizations and citizens who have previously expressed or are known to have interest in this proposal. A series of public meetings will be held in Ketchikan between June and August 1999. In addition, a public hearing will be held. Public notice will be given of the time and place of the meetings and hearing. The draft EIS will be available for public and agency review and comment prior to the public hearing.

This project will be developed in accordance with the Interagency Working Agreement to Integrate Section 404 and Related Permit Requirements

into the National Environmental Policy Act. This agreement integrates the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 404 permit process with the FHWA NEPA process on highway projects in Alaska.

To ensure that the full range of issues related to this proposed action are addressed and all significant issues identified, comments, and suggestions are invited from all interested parties. Comments or questions concerning this proposed action and the EIS should be directed to the FHWA or the ADOT&PF at the addresses provided above.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Number 20.205, Highway Planning and Construction. The regulations implementing Executive Order 12372 regarding intergovernmental consultation on Federal programs and activities apply to this program.)

Issued: February 11, 1999.

Stephen A. Moreno,
Division Administrator.

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**Federal Highway Administration**

[FHWA Docket No. FHWA-1999-5093]

Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century; Innovative Bridge Research and Construction Program; Public Meeting and Request for Comments

AGENCY: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), DOT.

ACTION: Public meeting; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The FHWA is announcing a public meeting to solicit information that will assist the agency in implementing section 5103 of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) which established the innovative bridge research and construction program. The new statutory language requires the Secretary of Transportation, represented by the FHWA, to make grants to, and enter into cooperative agreements and contracts with States and other Federal agencies, universities and colleges, private sector entities, and nonprofit organizations to pay the Federal share of the cost of research, development, and technology transfer concerning innovative materials; and States to pay the Federal share of the cost of repair, rehabilitation, replacement, and new construction of bridges or structures that demonstrate the application of innovative materials. The FHWA recognizes the public's interest in how the agency evaluates and selects projects to be funded. For this

reason, we are scheduling a public meeting to obtain comments and ideas from interested persons to assist the FHWA in implementing section 5103 expeditiously.

DATES: The public meeting will be held on Friday, February 26, 1999, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., c.t. Comments to the docket must be received on or before March 12, 1999.

ADDRESSES: The public meeting will be held at the O'Hare Marriott Hotel, 8535 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631, Telephone: (773) 693-4444.

Comments to the docket must refer to the docket number appearing at the top of this document and must be submitted to the Docket Clerk, U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590-0001. All comments received will be available for examination at the above address between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays. Those desiring notification of receipt of comments must include a self-addressed, stamped envelope or postcard.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. John Hooks, Office of Bridge Technology, (202) 366-6712; or Mr. Wilbert Baccus, Office of the Chief Counsel, (202) 366-1396; Federal Highway Administration, 400 Seventh Street, SW., Washington, DC 20590. Office hours are from 7:45 a.m. to 4:15 p.m., e.t., Monday through Friday except Federal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Electronic Access**

Internet users can access all comments received by the U.S. DOT Dockets, Room PL-401, by using the universal resource locator (URL): <http://dms.dot.gov>. It is available 24 hours each day, 365 days each year. Please follow the instructions online for more information and help.

An electronic copy of this document may be downloaded using a modem and suitable communications software from the Government Printing Office's Electronic Bulletin Board Service at (202) 512-1661. Internet users may reach the **Federal Register's** home page at: <http://www.nara.gov/fedreg> and the Government Printing Office's web page at: <http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara>.

Further information on the Innovative Bridge Research and Construction Program including project selections for FY 1998-99 will be found on the FHWA's web page at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge>.